

## **Types of Abuse**

- Physical
- Sexual
- Psychological/verbal
- Abandonment

## **Types of Financial Exploitation**

- Telemarketing Fraud
- Sweepstakes Fraud
- Charities Fraud
- Contractor/Home Repair Fraud
- Investment Fraud
- Confidence Schemes
- Identity Theft, Forgery and Credit Card Fraud
- Marriage for Profit
- Exploitation by Durable Power of Attorney
- Misuse of Joint Bank/Brokerage Accounts

## **Good Financial Practices**

- Use Direct Deposit for checks
- Do not sign 'blank' checks
- Ask a trusted friend, financial advisor or attorney to review any agreement to transfer money or property TO ANYONE – even a family member
- Check bank and other financial statements carefully each month for signs of unauthorized withdrawals
- Do not give out your Social Security or ATM pin number



**ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
**Joseph R. "Beau" Biden III**

## **Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation Project**

**New Castle County:**  
820 N. French St.  
5<sup>th</sup> floor  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
Phone: (302) 577-8508

**Kent and Sussex Counties:**  
102 W. Water Street, Suite 2  
Dover, DE 19904  
Phone: (302) 739-4211 ext. 237

Or visit the Attorney General's website:  
<http://www.state.de.us/attgen/>

**Volunteers are needed to assist senior victims! Please contact us to learn more about the Attorney General's Senior Victim Advocate Program.**

# **ELDER ABUSE AND FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION PROJECT**



**STATE OF DELAWARE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**Fraud and Consumer  
Protection Division**

## MESSAGE FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Across the nation, senior citizens are all too often the victims of financial exploitation. Unscrupulous individuals who perpetrate sweepstakes fraud, home repair fraud, telemarketing fraud, and insurance and investment frauds often target the elderly. Sadly, even family members and caretakers sometimes view seniors as easy prey. Historically, there have been few resources specially designated for the detection, investigation and prosecution of crimes of a financial nature against seniors who live in the community, and that is where most of the crimes involving financial exploitation occur.

To address this gap in service, the Elder Abuse and Exploitation Project was created in 1995. Retired police officers were hired to act as a liaison between the social service agencies for seniors, the law enforcement community and my office. This brochure is intended to explain the Elder Abuse and Exploitation Project and provide contact information for resources should you or someone you know need our assistance.

My office is committed to investigating and prosecuting those who would take advantage of our senior citizens. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you suspect that you, or someone you care about, is being harmed by abuse or neglect or is being taken advantage of by an unscrupulous individual.

Regards, Joseph R. "Beau" Biden III

## Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation Project

The Elder Abuse and Exploitation Project is part of the State Department of Justice Fraud and Consumer Protection Division. The project focuses on protecting older citizens, living in our communities, from abuse and neglect as well as fraud and exploitation through public education, investigation and prosecution.

The investigators who work in the Project, one who is assigned to New Castle County and one who is assigned to Kent and Sussex Counties, are responsible for:

- Protecting Delaware's older citizens from fraud and exploitation through
  - public education,
  - investigation of financial exploitation cases
  - assisting in the preparation of financial exploitation cases for prosecution
- Assisting other law enforcement agencies in the investigation of elderly abuse cases
- Training law enforcement officers to recognize elder abuse and exploitation
- Training bank personnel, protective service workers, and first responders to be alert to the signs of elder abuse and exploitation and how to report their concerns

If you live in the community and believe that you are a victim of abuse or financial exploitation or you suspect that someone you know is a victim, contact one of the following agencies:

- Delaware Department of Justice Elder Abuse and Exploitation Project
  - New Castle County:  
(302) 577-8508
  - Kent & Sussex Counties:  
(302) 739-4211 ext. 237
- Division of Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities

New Castle County:  
(302) 453-3820

Kent & Sussex Counties:  
(302) 422-1386

- Local Police Agency

If you or the suspected victim of abuse or financial exploitation lives in a nursing home or long-term care facility, contact:

- Division of Long-term Care  
Statewide: (877) 453-0012
- Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit: (302) 577-8505